

Remarks

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2005. Claims 1-15 and 17-71 remain pending in the Application. Claims 42, 62, 68, 70 and 71 were rejected. Claim 69 was objected to. Claims 1-15, 17-41, 43-61, and 63-67 were allowed. Claims 42 and 62 are being amended. Claims 68-71 are being canceled without prejudice for purposes of expediting prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to claim the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-67 will be pending. No new matter is being introduced.

Claim 70 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 70 is being canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 70 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is now moot.

Claims 42 and 62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gullapalli (U.S. Patent 6,424,076) in view of Ben-Yaakov (WO 00/25368). Applicant is amending these claims to include similar limitations as previously presented claim 1. Claim 42 as amended now recites, "means for selectably enabling and disabling said at least one actuator ... said means defined by at least two means connected in series for combining to perform the enabling and disabling." Claim 62 as amended now recites, "means for selectably applying a reference signal to the second electrode of at least one actuator ... said means defined by at least two means connected in series for combining to apply the reference signal." As described in reference to claim 1 in Amendment C mailed November 7, 2004 in response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2004, neither Gullapalli nor Ben-Yaakov, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, "means connected in series for combining to perform the enabling and disabling" or "combining to apply the reference signal."

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 42 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 68, 70, and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Comstock (U.S. Pat. 4,263,527) in view of Gullapalli. Claims 68-71 are being canceled.

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Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 68, 70, and 71 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is believed that the application having now pending claims (claims 1-15 and 17-67) is in order for issuance. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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